

Message Text

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14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCLANT NORVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198301

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MARR, US, BF

SUBJECT: NEXT PHASE OF BASE TALKS--BRITISH VIEWS

REF: NASSAU 1409

1. DEPARTMENT AND DOD CONCUR FULLY WITH AMBASSADOR'S RESPONSE TO THREE ISSUES RAISED BY UK HICOMER TREADWELL.
2. ON POINT A, WE WOULD NOT BE UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO AMBASSADOR MEETING WITH BRITISH TEAM. WE QUESTION, HOWEVER, THE UTILITY OF SUCH A MEETING AND ARE CONCERNED HOW SUCH A MEETING MIGHT BE VIEWED BY THE BAHAMIANS, PARTICULARLY WHETHER THEY WOULD SEE IT AS A "GANGING UP" EXERCISE ON THE PART OF OURSELVES AND HMG.
3. ON POINT B, WE BELIEVE THAT AGREED RECORD OF US-UK BILATERAL TALKS ON JULY 30 MAKES IT CLEAR THAT BOTH SIDES CONCURRED THAT FUTURE TALKS WITH THE GCOB WOULD BE ON BILATERAL BASIS WITH CABINET LEVEL OFFICIALS. ALTHOUGH IT WAS EQUALLY AGREED TO CONTINUE US-UK JOINT PACKAGE ON QUID, CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS APPROACH WAS PRIMARILY TO AVOID POSSIBLE DUPLICATION

OF MATERIEL ASSISTANCE. WE AGREE THAT THERE SHOULD BE COORDINATION ON FINAL PACKAGE, BUT THAT IT SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT INFORMALLY ON THE AMBASSADOR-HICOMER LEVEL IN ADVANCE OF AND IN THE WAKE OF BILATERAL MEETINGS.

4. ON POINT C, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT MAKES LITTLE SENSE

AND INDEED WOULD BE RETROGRADE STEP TO MEET TRILATERALLY AT THE PERMSEC LEVEL, AFTER AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE HAD BEEN ACHIEVED WITH ADDERLEY. "POSSIBILITY" OF "FINAL TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE" WAS HELD OUT IN LAST US-UK BILATERAL MEETING, BUT IT WAS ASSUMED THAT ANY SUCH MEETING WAS TO BE MINISTERIAL LEVEL AND NOT AT "OFFICIAL" LEVEL.

5. DEPARTMENT WILL DISCUSS TREADWELL'S DEMARCHE WITH UK EMBASSY WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND WILL INDICATE FULL SUPPORT FOR POSITION AMBASSADOR ESPOUSED IN NASSAU. PORTER

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